

House and will be returning shortly. We have agreed in principle that the time I consume and that perhaps he consumes when he later arrives will be used against the 10 hours, that we will do that retroactively. But we start without an agreement because they are working on a global agreement as to how we will conclude the work of the Senate the remainder of this week. Until they have that agreement, we will not reach a unanimous consent agreement with respect to how we dispose of the budget conference report.

For the information of colleagues, there is up to 10 hours allocated to the budget conference report discussion. We hope that could be done in less time, obviously, and that we might vote this evening, for the notice of my colleagues, or potentially tomorrow, depending on how long it goes and the decision of the leadership.

Before I begin the discussion of the conference agreement, I ask that the clerk keep a close tab on the time because we will try to reach an agreement later to retroactively apply the time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, before I begin on the budget conference report, I wish to say publicly how the entire Senate family is thinking about Senator KENNEDY and Vicki and the family, how much we miss him, his presence on the floor, how much we miss his presence at our caucus, and how much all of us are fervently hoping for his full and quick recovery.

If there is anybody who can beat this, it is TED KENNEDY. He is a lion. Rarely have I ever met somebody of such force of will, somebody who is so totally dedicated to serving the people whom he represents, someone who cares so deeply about America's democracy, about this institution.

On both sides of the aisle, I have had many Senators say to me: TED KENNEDY is simply the most productive Senator among us. Nobody turns out more work, more quality work than he does. Whether you agree with his legislative positions or disagree, you have to admire the incredible energy and devotion that he brings to the job, the respect he has for this institution, and his determination to advance causes in which he believes.

My family has been close to the Kennedy family for many years. When John Kennedy's advance people came to North Dakota or Robert's advance people or TED KENNEDY's, they always stayed with my family. So I have always felt a very close association with the Kennedy family.

Anybody who looks back on his extraordinary service here, virtually unparalleled in the history of the Senate, has to have profound respect for TED KENNEDY, for his work, his values, his

deep and abiding love of this country, and of the institution of the Congress, and his respect for the Presidency of the United States.

I want Senator KENNEDY to know that all of us here are pulling for him. I want Vicki to know that we stand ready to do whatever we can to lighten her burden and the burden of the rest of the family.

I deeply admire Senator KENNEDY. Also, what a light he is in this Chamber. He uplifts the rest of us. I have seen many times, when others were stricken in this Chamber, the first person to call was TED KENNEDY, always eager to help when somebody faced a tragedy.

We are thinking about Ted.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. CONRAD. I will be happy to yield.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the Senator from Utah is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am so grateful to the Senator. I wish to associate myself with the remarks of the distinguished Senator from North Dakota and tell him I don't know anybody in the Senate who feels more deeply about Senator KENNEDY than I do. We have been adversaries for 32 years. We have also been partners.

I have watched what their family has given to America. I love his sisters. I love the in-laws. I know he raised the children, and they are good kids. I have great faith in TED KENNEDY as a person who will fight back with the faith and prayers of all of us in the Senate and millions of others across the country. I believe Ted will be able to come back, and he will come back, and I believe he will be able to whip this problem. I am going to exert all the faith and prayers I possibly can to help him do it.

I agree with the distinguished Senator, whenever any of us encountered great difficulty, he was always the first to call.

We have worked together on so many pieces of legislation, landmark legislation, that I wish to personally compliment him for being willing to cross the aisle in so many ways and to work out difficulties. One of the last things we worked on was the bio bill. That is a very complex, difficult bill, and we worked along with Senator ENZI, who is a wonderful companion of Senator KENNEDY on the HELP Committee. We worked with Senator CLINTON, who added a great deal to the work on that bill. Senator SCHUMER was a great asset on that bill. These are people for whom I have great respect.

Let me say to Ted and Vicki that our prayers and our faith are with both of them and their children and the rest of the extended family, and we will do everything in our power to support Senator KENNEDY in this time of difficulty. I personally believe that if we have enough faith and pray hard enough and with the great clinical help he will have, Senator KENNEDY will return and

continue to do the job he believes in. I know he appreciates everybody who has spoken out for him, who has expressed concern, who has expressed anguish, as I do here, about his present situation. I know he is facing this with a great sense of humor, which is one of the most endearing qualities Ted Kennedy has, among many endearing qualities.

He carries so much weight on the Democrat side and, of course, for those of us who work with him on the Republican side, a lot of weight with us as well. So I want him to know we all love him, appreciate him, and appreciate the leadership he has provided through the years and the quality of the person he is.

If the distinguished Senator would allow me to address another topic, I would be very grateful.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that these new sets of remarks be placed in the RECORD at an appropriate place.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. I will have more to say about Senator KENNEDY later, but I wanted to make those few remarks here today.

COMBATING CHILD EXPLOITATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, the exploitation of children is a plague. It is a war with many fronts, and we must be engaged in them all. I wish to review some of the ways we are fighting this good fight and encourage my colleagues to be as relentless in protecting children as are those in the world who exploit them.

Just 2 days ago, the Supreme Court upheld our most recent attempt to combat the spread of child pornography. In a 7-to-2 decision—an overwhelming vote by the Supreme Court, by the way—the Court held that the PROTECT Act is consistent with the first amendment. I introduced the PROTECT Act in January 2003. It passed this body unanimously in February, passed the House without objection in March, and was signed into law in April. The PROTECT Act prohibits the pandering or solicitation of child pornography.

Child pornography is perhaps the most egregious form of exploitation. It not only victimizes and brutalizes children directly but makes a permanent record of that abuse that may never be erased. Child pornography is not protected by the first amendment, which means its possession and sale can be banned.

In 2002, the Supreme Court struck down the Child Pornography Prevention Act, a bill I introduced in the 104th Congress. So we went back to the drawing board. If the objective is important—and I do not believe any objective is more important than protecting children from exploitation—then we must not take no for an answer. We must not let speed bumps,